

# PATRICK's Purgatory:

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O R, A

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Fragment shall be saved.

BEING THE

HISTORY of PATRICK,

Restored and clear'd from the  
scandalous Aspersions of a spurious  
Biographer.

To be continued WEEKLY.



D U B L I N:

Printed in the Year MDCC LIII.

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# P R E F A C E.



*Courteous Reader,*

**M**Y design in putting into your hands this fragment, is not from any desire I have to shew how well versed I am in the *Irish* language, nor yet to magnify *Patrick* or his *coachman*, or make any complaints of the *old gentleman's* partiality to *two* of his sons in prejudice to the *third*; but purely for the sake of truth, and to undeceive all who think it worth their while to concern themselves in the knowledge of the affairs of a private family, and convince them they are imposed upon by the *pretended* translator of the *fragment of the history of PATRICK*, who has either translated it from a faulty Copy, or else knows nothing of the original language, or has wilfully perverted it, or has taken it from a Poet, as he seems to own, p. 6. for it is an heap of arrant lies, instead of a true history.

Where he found his manuscript, I know not. I had *mine* from the *old office*, kept in the *house at the foot of the hill*, where all *Patrick's* business was done, time immemorial, which any one may peruse, who understands the language, and will be surprized to see how this insipid translator has varied from known facts, and related others never heard of before.

Compare and see—

PATRICK'S

# PATRICK'S PURGATORY.

**P**ATRICK had a considerable estate in land, which, for a long time, was badly inhabited, and his family worse fed and cloathed; not that his own Children, who were the most numerous on it, wanted industry or ingenuity to improve the land, or exercise trades; but by reason that *strangers*, recommended by the *overseer*, reap'd the fruits of their industry, and fattened on the sweat of their brow. When *George* had any quarrel with his neighbours, and wanted a *posse* to take possession, or recover it, he made *Patrick* send his tenants, and pay them all the while they staid abroad. When he had scraped and saved any sum of money above his usual living (which was poor enough) his *brother* duly sent for it, unless once in twenty years it might happen that he writ to *Patrick* a very obliging Letter, testifying his great kindness, and desiring he would make use of some part of *his own* money, in case he wanted it; *One* of which being a curiosity, as a just historian, I must not fail to insert.

To my well beloved brother PATRICK.

Dear Brother,

IT is always a pleasure to me to hear of your welfare,  
which I will always promote to the utmost of my power.

" The great quantity of holland shirts you have by you, convinces me you are extremely rich, and can want for nothing, and I will cheerfully assist you to have more.

" I desire you will be very charitable to the poor; and hearing you have saved some money lately, I graciously *consent* you pay your debts out of it, tho' I can't conceive how you can get into debt; I'm sure I never cost you a brass farthing.

" I know, *brother*, you are foolish at times, and at present I fear; because you have peace both at home and abroad, you are apt to think yourself secure both from pilferers and robbers; but I, who am *wiser*, tell you, now is the time of danger, and insist on it you put iron bars in all your windows, and keep a watch at the end of your avenue to guard your house and money; and, for that end, I have ordered the *bearer* to take your money, and lay it out in iron bars and centry-boxes; and he will let you know (I don't doubt) what the necessary charge will be, and account either with you or me for the rest.

" This can't fail of being highly agreeable to you—I rely on your brotherly affection in return for this instance of my regard.

" Yours, &c.  
GEORGE.

This letter was read to *Patrick*, first at his house on *Mount Formal*, and then at the bottom of the hill.

*Patrick* looked d——d grum on it, and cou'dnt conceive how taking away his money was the best method of keeping it for him, or how it should be *necessary* to bar his house; when his neighbours were all friends with him, and yet leave it open when they were at daggers drawing. As for his holland shirts, he was ashamed to wear them whilst he was *barefooted* and *ragged-a—d*; or he wondered how he could be charitable when he had no money left. In this quandary *Dolly Major* and *Jenny Minor* (who were at all times his advisers) agreed to tell him it was all for his good, and moved him to thank his brother for his kindness, and to let him know how hugely they were obliged to him for sending his letter by so worthy an *overseer* whom



whom they loved like their own eyes, and were sure came only for their goods.

How the two *housemaids* came to agree so cordially in this advice, the D—l himself can't tell as yet; for tho' it be true, *Jenny Minor*, of late, was grown *plump and sizeable*, and was a starved-looking jade before \*, and might therefore be supposed to have been well fed by the *overseer*, and may be *debauched*; now she was grown handsome; yet that will not account for so extraordinary a reconciliation — But we shall see anon, and shall not here break the thread of our history to explain it, or hunt for reasons, and will only stop here, to give a character of the two *housemaids*.

*Dolly* was from her infancy a little inclined to be termagant, full of *flouts* and *jeers*, and selling bargains among the footmen. *Jenny* had, generally speaking, more sense, or, at least, more wit; for *hunger* is the mother of invention. But tho' she spoke a great deal, nobody minded her. *Dolly*, 'ere she was *fifteen*, became a common prostitute, was every body's money, and would go aside with a *stranger* at first sight, if he chinked a purse at her. *Harry*, the coachman, was the first that reclaimed her †, by telling her, she had ev'ry thing in her power, if she would be true to herself; that she need not sneak to any *overseer*, but scorn his money, and live like a gentlewoman on her own means, which, by her industry, she had fairly earned; that he had no interest in telling her so, because he would not take a farthing to himself, tho' the *overseer* daily tempted him to make her drunk and debauch her. She took his advice, and promised to use her influence on *Patrick* to take it too, which happily succeeded for twenty years, and such a change for the better was never seen in any family before. The children were

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\* The Translator of the fragment says, she was a skeleton, p. 24. She was always lean, indeed, but never so unhealthy as to want any more than a little kitchen physick, though she was wofully quacked, by ignorant doctors, before her case was found out.

† The reader is desired to compare this with the Translator's pretended fragment. — The account he gives all through of *Harry*, and of *John the market-man*, is so much the reverse of fact, that he has certainly taken the hint from the famous critic, who makes *Alop* a beauty.

were plump and well cloathed, the servants better fed, and following their business instead of idling and starving \*. The tradesmen, instead of sculking for debt, had money to lend; the farmers (assisted, it must be own'd, by farmer Goodman) had tight habitations, to what they lived in before, and ev'ry thing smiled around, save a few *strangers*, who had got one half of *Patrick's* substance already, and were out of humour because they hadn't it all. *Dolly*, by her advice to *Patrick*, had made him look kindly on his *children* and *tenants*, and *Harry* was ever at her elbow to keep her true to herself.

*Jenny* all the while wasted apace, and, what never happened before, quite lost her wit. She could hardly say *bo to a goose*, every man of sense, and of any property, was of *Dolly's* side. The derided enemies of *Patrick's* prosperity were pitiable to behold †, *proud and poor*. Some of them thick blooded, but happily tempered with water and small beer, all except the *strangers*, who lived in riot enough, at the expence of others, but would not keep even a *cat* at their own. All the time they fretted inwardly, and waited, and bit their tongue, 'till they should get an *overseer* to their mind. They hated *Dolly* and *Harry* as *old Nick* does holy water, but would take a sprinkling when they could get it; for their pride, at any time, will stoop to their convenience. They got an *overseer* at last, who thought he had no more to do but stamp with his foot, and raise an army like *Pompey* of old. But he was out in his calculation; and his *rhodomontade* came to begging and praying. He went back with a *flea in his ear*, and not a penny in his purse.

He made a lamentable story when he went back to Mr. George; said *Dolly* was with child, by one of his brother *Andrew's* highlanders; that she had neither shame nor honesty, and no more religion than a *Hottentot*; that he had left the *Chaplain* to convert her, and, as all *indulgences* were to pass thro' his hands, hoped he might make a sort of a Christian of her.

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\* The reader is desired again to compare notes.

† Here the Translator blunders out a confession, p. 21, that *Jenny* was a spectacle de la nature. Never, to be sure, was a minor so justly despicable, and so deservedly famished.

her. But the *Chaplain* went the wrong way to work, and, instead of changing her *principles*, only restrained her *practice*; and she is now as ready to fly out as ever, and will shew her mettle, whenever she finds the *overseer* too busy with her. *Jenny* is uppish, but her spirits are forced, and will die, of course, when the *hot-bed* cools. *Dolly* grows on *natural soil*, and will shoot and flourish in the spring, and her verdure will be fresh and lasting.

Though I was a curious observer of all *Patrick's* transactions for five and twenty years, and had heard a good deal from my gossip *Ralph*, and *Will*, the two *coachmen* whom *Harry* succeeded, I could never rightly understand how *George* came to act so gingerly with his brother, and go round and round the bush to get his brother to give him his money, as it were, from time to time, instead of taking it with a *high hand*, and giving it, and his land, in a lump to whom he pleased; for he was twice as strong, and could have done it with a whistle; till I found the reason in a speech to a grand jury, made by a cousin and counsellor of *George's*, just after *James*, an uncle of *George's*, had been playing some pranks. "Gentlemen," says he \*, "it has been found by experience, that when our master G— has had a mind to fleece and oppress his tenants, he has always try'd his hand first on his brother *Patrick*; and when ever you see any thing arbitrary and illegal done there, be sure he means the counterpart of such treatment for you. Now *James*, our late master, began with *Patrick*, and afterwards with you; for nothing can be truer in the nature of things, than that sauce for a goose is sauce for a gander." I remember old *Will* often used to say, this speech made *George's* people look about them; and after *James* was turn'd out for misdemeanors, and their good friend, who rid them of him, had a mind to bear hard on *Patrick* †, and also sent a message to the house at home *under the bill*, to desire they would provide *blue cloaths* ‡ for some men he had taken a fancy to keep about

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\* *Lord D—l—e's speech to the grand jury at W—n, ann. 1690.*

† *K. W—m had a mind to have eight thousand men more in I—d; but though the I—sh p—t consented, the c—ns of E—d petitioned against it.*

‡ *The D—h guards.*

about him, which was the least they could do for all his favours; instead of complying with him, they desired to know "who had put such strange things in his head?" And if he had told them, as he did not, they would have trounced his advisers to some purpose. When *Will* became coachman to *Patrick*, he wisely considered the same answer might safely be sent from *his house* when *George* desired any thing unreasonable, and did it but sparingly; but when *Harry* got into the box, he gave the *overseer* to understand there was something more to be done than *up and ride*; that he knew no reason *George* should meddle in his *brother's* affairs farther than the *family settlement* allow'd \*; and made his words good. All *Patrick's* children, to a man, adored his bravery, and stuck to him for twenty years.

But it happened an *Attorney's clerk* or two, who had little business at home, left *George's* estate to seek their fortune with *Patrick*; and well they throve upon it; they were, at first, all curtesy and flattery to *Dolly* and the *coachman*, got their tit-bits in the family, had fidlers fare, meat and money, 'till they grew so sawcy, there was no ho with them; they did not know what right miss *Dolly* had to keep the keys of the *larder* and *cellar*; it was *George's* meat and drink, not *Patrick's*, who was a sneaking beggarly fellow, and they would not be stinted. The *chaplain* came into the same tune, and away they went to the *overseer* to complain, and put him in mind how that *bitch Dolly*, and her comrade *Harry*, had affronted him; that it never would be well 'till he was turn'd off; that if he lent a helping hand, they would hoist him off the box. The *overseer* consented, but found there was no way to compass it, but to set up *Jenny* against *Dolly*, and how they contrived it will be seen in the next Chapter.

#### END OF THE FIRST CHAPTER.

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\* Here the Translator has inserted a downright forgery, "that it was an old rule in the family, that when *Patrick* neglected his affairs, *George* should do it for him." — He did, indeed, once; but it was no rule or right.